



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Bovine Tuberculosis in California

On April 25, 2003, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) removed California from its list of tuberculosis (TB) accredited-free states because three TB-affected herds were detected within a 48-month period. California is now classified as a TB modified accredited advanced State.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), USDA, and the cattle industry are working together to control and eradicate bovine TB from California.

Update

Since May 2002, bovine TB has been confirmed in three California dairy herds. All herds were quarantined, test-positive cattle were destroyed, and the remainder of the herds depopulated.

After removing cattle, the premises must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before quarantines can be released to allow cattle to be restocked. Cattle sold from or associated with the affected herds are being traced and tested.

Investigation of a TB-infected cow found in September 2002 at a California slaughterhouse is ongoing.

As of March 30, 2003, 231,682 cattle in 155 herds have been tested for bovine TB since this investigation began, and about 13,000 cattle have been depopulated during this investigation.

Cumulative Since May 13, 2002	
Herds tested	155
Number of animals tested	231,682
Number of herds quarantined	3
Number of cattle destroyed	~13,000
Average number of field personnel	15

As of February 2003, we recommended a TB test within the current fair season on exhibition dairy cattle more than 6 months of age from Tulare, Kings and Fresno Counties.

Impact on California

With the downgrade from TB-free to modified accredited advanced, all sexually intact cattle and bison leaving California require official identification and a certificate stating that they were negative to an official TB test done within 60 days prior to the date of movement unless moved:

- ## To slaughter at an approved slaughtering establishment;
- ## From an accredited herd and accompanied by a certificate stating that the accredited herd completed the testing necessary for accredited status with negative results within one year prior to the date of movement.

The new TB requirements do not apply to sexually intact heifers moving to feedlots, steers and spayed heifers until September 30, 2003. The USDA is reviewing its regulations used to determine a state's TB status, and expects to publish a new rule by this date.

The USDA will consider comments on the rule changing California's TB status until June 24, 2003.

Agreements developed with neighboring states ease the TB testing requirements on breeding beef cattle moving interstate annually for grazing on an approved Pasture-to-Pasture permit. Breeding beef cattle 24 months of age and older require a TB test within 12 months of application for the permit, and subsequently every 3 years to continue to move annually while California is less than TB-free.

When moving cattle out of California, always check with the state of destination for their TB testing requirements.

Plans

CDFA, USDA, and the cattle industry are working together to control and eradicate bovine TB from California. Current plans to enhance the California TB program include:

- ## Continue testing all 600 dairy herds in Tulare, Kings, and Fresno Counties (~773,000 milking cows), prioritizing dairies that recently received out-of-state cattle.
- ## Require a TB test before importing dairy cattle into California.
- ## Restrict Mexican cattle to "pre-approved" pastures.

California can reapply for accredited free status in April 2005 provided that no additional infected herds are detected.

CDFA Animal Health Branch Offices	
Sacramento (HQ)	916-654-1447
Modesto	209-491-9350
Ontario	909-947-4462
Redding	530-225-2140
Tulare	559-685-3500
Tulare TB Task Force	559-687-1158
CDFA Milk and Dairy Foods Control Branch Offices	
Stockton	209-466-7186
Oakland	510-622-4810
Fresno	559-445-5506
Ontario	909-923-9929
USDA/APHIS/VS	
916-857-6170 or 877-741-3690	